



# 1 DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Infrastructure development on the Liddell Coal site now completed.

# 2 ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Liddell Coal strives towards best practice environmental management.

# 3 MINING UPDATE

A production increase of approximately 8 per cent scheduled for 2009.

# 4 COMMUNITY NEWS

Recent support for the local community has ranged from sponsorships to donations.

# Liddell Coal Update

Liddell Coal Community Newsletter February 2009, Issue No. 4

## Message from the Operations Manager

I am pleased to welcome you to the fourth edition of the *Liddell Coal Update*, which provides information on what has been happening at Liddell Coal over the last twelve months and what will be happening in 2009.

First I'd like to introduce myself, I'm Tony Galvin and I have only recently moved into the role of Operations Manager at Liddell Coal. Before moving to Liddell Coal, I was the Operations Manager at the nearby Ravensworth Operations.

Coal mining has been undertaken at Liddell Coal since the 1950's and the new Development

Consent modification provides the opportunity for an exciting future that I'm keen to share. I commend the work already undertaken on the various upgrades to the plant and facilities, some of which is detailed in this newsletter, and look forward to working with all stakeholders to keep our focus on safety and the environment in 2009.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and prosperous 2009.

Tony Galvin  
Operations Manager



Tony Galvin, Operations Manager, Liddell Coal

## Development Consent Update

The 2007 modification to Liddell Colliery's development consent (DA 305-11-01) allowed the construction of several important infrastructure items on the site. These are now completed and will lead to improved site performance and environmental management.

## New Coal Handling and Preparation Plant

The new Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) and an upgrade to the existing ROM and product coal facilities was completed in June 2008. The construction of the new CHPP has allowed an increased production throughput from 700 tonnes/hour to 1,000 tonnes/hour and has more efficient screening, cyclone and spiral components than the previous plant. The old preparation plant was decommissioned following the new plants commissioning.



Liddell Coal's new Coal Handling and Preparation Plant

## New Access and Services Corridor

Another major feature of the modification to Liddell Coal's development consent is the realignment of the main access and services corridor. The corridor was constructed in 2008 and includes the installation of new electricity transmission lines, telecommunications, pipelines, and an access road. The new access and services corridor was constructed to retain access to Pikes Gully road from the old New England highway as the alignment of the old highway is located within the approved mining area.

The construction of the access and services corridor required the completion of an extensive sub surface testing and salvage program for aboriginal heritage. The project was managed with local aboriginal stakeholder consultation and in accordance to the Liddell Coal Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan and approvals from the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

## New Office and Workshop Facilities

The new Open Cut office and workshop facilities were completed in late 2008 and were constructed to replace those located in the approved mine disturbance area.

The new office and workshop facilities include:

- relocatable administration buildings including amenities, training rooms, crib-rooms, bath house and first aid room;
- waste water treatment plant;
- ambulance access and helipad;
- covered walkways connecting buildings;
- machinery workshop;
- water storage tanks;
- fuel farm;
- light and heavy vehicle washbays;
- hardstand areas and sealed parking areas;
- sediment and erosion control works.

The office and workshop facilities are connected with all utilities including power, potable and raw water, sewage, fire detection and fire fighting systems and telecommunications.

Access to the new facilities is gained from a new intersection with the old New England Highway.



TOP: Liddell Coal's new offices and workshop. RIGHT: Realigned access road and services corridor



## Community Update

### Community Consultative Committee

Liddell Coal's Community Consultative Committee (CCC) provides a forum for our local community and mine management to meet and discuss key issues. CCC meetings are held every six months in accordance with Liddell Coal's development consent. Our CCC currently consists of one community representative and two representatives from Muswellbrook Shire Council and Singleton Shire Council.

Liddell Coal is actively seeking additional community representatives to join its CCC. Becoming a community representative on the Liddell CCC affords you the opportunity to meet regularly with the management of Liddell Coal, learn of developments at the site, be regularly updated on Liddell's environmental performance and provide advice on improved environmental management and community relations at the site.

Our meetings are scheduled at times to suit the participants, with the last meeting being held on 28 October 2008 at the new Liddell Coal office facilities.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Liddell CCC or would like to make an enquiry, please call Mark Howes on (02) 6570 9923 for further information.

## Donations and Sponsorships for 2007-2008

Liddell Coal has made donations and sponsorships to the following organisations and charities since November 2007:

- End of year presentations funding for 16 local schools
- Sponsorship of the "Movember" appeal assisting the Beyond Blue and Prostate Cancer Association
- Lake Liddell Trust
- Hebden Wild Dog Association
- Singleton Amateur Theatrical Society
- Sponsorship of the Muswellbrook Shire Council "Upper Hunter Youth Forum"
- Mercy Nursing Home
- Singleton Community Health Centre
- Singleton Legacy
- Sponsorship of the "Special Children's Christmas Party"

Liddell Coal aims to provide support for local projects relating to the community, health, education and the environment. If you know of a worthwhile project, we encourage you to contact Mark Howes on (02) 6570 9923 for further information.

## Website

Liddell Coal is online! The Liddell Coal website is up and running and currently under development. Keep an eye on the site as we update useful information on Liddell Coal's operations, including environmental, community and operational issues. Check us out at: <http://www.liddellcoal.com.au>

## Employee Profile:

### Mark Howes

#### Environment and Community Coordinator

**When did you start working at Liddell?**  
October 2008

**Where did you come from?** I recently came from consulting in the mining industry, and have held other environment and earth science positions in the mining industry and NSW government.

**What do you enjoy about working at Liddell?** I like the dynamic nature of the mining industry, and as Liddell increases in production there are various associated challenges. The varied interactions with such a diverse number of people makes every day interesting and different.



## Mining Update

Last year, our mining contractor Hunter Valley Earthmoving and Liddell Coal produced approximately 4.16 million tonnes of run-of-mine (ROM) coal and of that, approximately 2.7 million tonnes of coal were exported. Approximately 4.5 million tonnes of product coal is scheduled in 2009.

## Environment Update

Liddell Coal is committed to striving towards best practice environmental management and to constantly improving its environmental performance.

### Flora and Fauna Monitoring Program

Liddell Coal's flora and fauna monitoring program continued this year with surveys conducted during March and April 2008.

The flora survey revealed a diverse range of species on site, notably, a large, healthy specimen of tiger orchid (*Cymbidium canaliculatum*) which is listed as an endangered population in the Hunter Catchment under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act* (TSC Act). Similarly, the fauna surveys recorded five fauna species listed under the NSW TSC Act, two of which have not previously been recorded on site – the spotted-tail quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) and the large-footed myotis (*Myotis adversus*).

The next flora and fauna monitoring surveys are scheduled to be undertaken in Autumn 2009.

### Blue-Billed Duck Habitat Enhancement

The blue-billed duck (*Oxyura australis*), a species listed as 'vulnerable' under the NSW TSC Act, has been identified at Liddell Coal's dams 7 and 13 during fauna monitoring surveys. In accordance with the modification to the development consent in 2007, Liddell Coal has committed to undertaking habitat enhancement measures at Dam 3 and Mountain Block Dam to offset impacts on the blue-billed duck as a result of mining operations.

A Blue-Billed Duck Management Strategy was developed during 2008 to guide the creation and maintenance of habitat for the blue-billed duck at each of the dams. In line with recommendations outlined in this strategy, Liddell Coal is currently undertaking an assessment of Dam 3 to determine the scope of enhancement activities required. Habitat enhancement works at Dam 3 are expected to commence early in 2009.



Profile survey of Dam 3 leading up to habitat enhancement measures for the Blue-billed Duck – November 2008

## Weed Management

A comprehensive Weed Management Plan was developed for Liddell Coal during 2008 to assist with the management of weed control across the site. A two day weed survey was conducted across the Liddell Colliery to assist in the development of the plan, and formed the basis of a detailed treatment schedule and action plan.

Weed management activities were undertaken at the CHPP, Open Cut and Antiene East Dam areas during 2008, with weed species targeted including pampas grass, castor oil tree, galenia and St John's wort. Further weed management actions are planned for early 2009.

## Contact Details

For further information contact:

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Email: [mhowes@xstratacoal.com.au](mailto:mhowes@xstratacoal.com.au)

Community Complaints Line

Ph: (02) 6570 9939

Company Contact Details:

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